

**Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking  
System Upgrades and Expansion**

**FY2024 Request: \$1,200,000**  
**Reference No: AMD 48513**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Category:** Transportation

**Location:** Statewide

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028

**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety

**Recipient:** Marine Exchange of Alaska

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Catherine Reardon

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**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The purpose of this project is to operate, maintain, upgrade and expand the vessel tracking system provided by the non-profit Marine Exchange of Alaska that substantially contributes to safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. The vessel tracking system affects all of Alaska's coastal communities and is a valuable tool for state agencies and the United States Coast Guard.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) has the technology and capability to improve the marine communications infrastructure in Alaska's Arctic region.

| <b>Funding:</b> | <b>FY2024</b> | <b>FY2025</b> | <b>FY2026</b> | <b>FY2027</b> | <b>FY2028</b> | <b>FY2029</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1206 CPV<br>Tax | \$1,200,000   | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$3,200,000  |
| Total:          | \$1,200,000   | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$400,000     | \$3,200,000  |

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new         | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing |
| 0% = Minimum State Match % Required           |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill |   |

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

|                      | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Project Development: | 0             | 0            |
| Ongoing Operating:   | 0             | 0            |
| One-Time Startup:    | 0             | 0            |
| Totals:              | 0             | 0            |

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

Sec1 Ch19 SLA2018 P3 L29 SB142 \$400,000  
Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P3 L25 SB23 \$400,000  
Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P2 L30 SB138 \$400,000  
Sec1 Ch18 SLA2015 P43 L8 SB119 \$500,000  
Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P93 L10 SB18 \$500,000  
Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P93 L10 SB160 \$600,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

- The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) has the technology and capability to improve the marine communications infrastructure in Alaska's Arctic region.
- MXAK is a non-profit maritime organization that has garnered international recognition for developing the world's largest vessel compliance monitoring and response system. Our services contribute to Alaska's Blue Economy and helps protect natural resources to ensure food security to the region, state and nation. MXAK's 7x24 Operations Center in Juneau

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monitors and manages over 1.5 million square miles of Alaska waters aiding safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maritime operations for cruise ships, cargo ships, tanker, tugs and barges, native mariners and communities, fishing vessels, ports and recreational vessels. As marine traffic expands through the Bering and Chukchi seas, communication and vessel emergency response capacity must expand to match the growing threat to Alaska's shores and waters.

- MXAK's operations center detects elevated risk events and initiates notifications to emergency response entities to minimize marine casualties and aid timely response. In several cases MXAK's watch center has played a key role in preventing loss of life and property as well as environmental harm. There is no other state in the U.S. that has a marine exchange that provides services encompassing a larger or more challenging maritime region than Alaska! The success of Alaska's maritime safety net is largely due to past State funding. The State has been instrumental in the buildout of MXAK's extensive vessel tracking and communications system.
- Restoring State financial support will allow the Marine Exchange to upgrade and maintain this maritime safety net at over 150 locations around the State and expand our communications network of VHF radios, Automatic Identification System (AIS), search and rescue receivers (Digital Selective Calling) and weather stations in Alaska's arctic communities that are facing increased maritime traffic. A State project for the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development recommended continuing to use and fund MXAK to provide maritime domain awareness adding, "future marine traffic will be critical to the long-term environmental economic security of the State standards for a certified ice navigator."